

feeling so as not to empathize with the user's feeling. The internal state management unit 110 rather manages the robot 20's feeling so as to react against the user, thereby allowing the user to realize that the user should treat the robot 20 more carefully.

[0055] Therefore, even if the evaluation value of the "joy" index of the user who has got a home run is updated to positive, the internal state management unit 110 updates the evaluation value of the "joy" index of the robot 20 to negative. If the robot 20's popularity rating for the user is negative, the internal state management unit 110 updates the evaluation value of the robot 20's feeling to a value opposite to the evaluation value of the user's feeling. Therefore, if the feeling evaluation value of the user is positive, the feeling evaluation value of the robot 20 may be updated negative. If the feeling evaluation value of the user is negative, the feeling evaluation value of the robot 20 may be updated positive.

[0056] Upon updating the internal state of the robot 20, the internal state management unit 110 provides the action management unit 120 with trigger information indicating that it is time to determine the action of the robot 20. Accordingly, the action management unit 120 determines the action including the audio output of the robot 20 on the basis of the internal state of the robot 20 updated in the object internal state storage unit 132, specifically, the negative evaluation value of the "joy" index. For example, the action management unit 120 may not generate the contents of the speech (i.e., ignore the user), and may determine the action as the movement of the robot 20 to turn in the opposite direction to the user (turn to the other side). These contents of the action are notified to the output processing unit 140, and the output processing unit 140 causes the robot 20 to perform the action determined by the action management unit 120.

[0057] Seeing this action of the robot 20, the user notices that the robot 20 is not pleased with the user this time, although the robot 20 was pleased together before. The user looks back at the user's own attitude and recognises that the robot 20 is not pleased together with the user because of the user's cold contact with the robot 20. By causing the robot 20 to react against the user by dare, an opportunity for the user to keep in mind to gently treat the robot 20 from now on is given to the user.

[0058] Thus, in the object control system 1, the relationship between the user and the robot 20 is managed in the same manner as the human relationship in an actual human society. In the communication between people in real world, a good relationship is generated by coming in contact with each other with consideration for each other. If one is not considerate, the other will not be able to be considerate. In the object control system 1, this considerateness is expressed by the feeling of the "love" index, and the human relationship through the considerateness is expressed by the "popularity rating" index. Therefore, the evaluation value of the user's popularity rating in the object control system 1 and the evaluation value of the robot 20's popularity rating also tend to be linked. In a case in which the robot 20's popularity rating for the user is lowered, the evaluation value for the popularity rating for the user is improved from negative to positive by the user coming in contact with the robot 20 with more consideration, and then, the user may get again the joint viewing experience together with the robot 20.

[0059] The robot 20 may be a kind of a friend by increasing the user's affinity with the robot 20. If the user is living

an irregular life, the robot 20 may propose improvement of the life rhythm, for example, saying "Let's go to bed soon" and such a case that the user listens to and accepts the robot 20 as advice from a friend may be also considered in the future. In order to achieve such case described above, constructing a mechanism to increase the user's affinity with the robot 20 through the joint viewing experience with the robot 20 also leads to expanding the future possibilities of the robot 20.

[0060] Note that, in the above-described embodiment, although the mechanism is proposed in which the user obtains the joint viewing experience with the robot 20 being an actual object, a mechanism for obtaining the joint viewing experience between the virtual objects may be similarly constructed.

[0061] In this case, the virtual object may be a character such as a person or a pet including the 3D model, and exists in the virtual space generated by the computer. In the embodiment, in the virtual space constructed when the user wears the HMD, the mechanism is proposed in which the contents are reproduced in front of the user, and when the user turns sideways, the user may see how the virtual character is viewing the content together with the user. Similarly to the robot 20, the virtual character also communicates with the user by outputting the reaction to empathize with the user or outputting the reaction against the user conversely.

[0062] FIG. 5 illustrates a diagram of an example of the appearance form of the HMD 200. The HMD 200 includes an output mechanism unit 202 and a mounting mechanism unit 204. The mounting mechanism unit 204 includes a mounting band 206 for fixing the HMD 200 to the head by circling the head with being worn by the user.

[0063] The output mechanism unit 202 includes a housing 208 shaped to cover the left and right eyes in a state where the user wears the HMD 200, and internally includes a display panel which is located opposed to the eyes at the time of wearing. The display panel may be a liquid crystal panel or an organic electroluminescence (EL) panel. The housing 208 further includes a pair of left and right optical lenses located between the display panel and the user's eyes and enlarging a viewing angle of the user. The HMD 200 may further include a speaker or an earphone at a position corresponding to the user's ear and may be configured to be connected with an external headphone. In addition, a camera that photographs the face of the user is provided inside the housing 208 and is used to detect a facial expression of the user.

[0064] On an outer surface of the housing 208, light emission markers 210a, 210b, 210c, and 210d are provided, which are tracking light emitting diodes (LEDs). The light emission marker 210 is photographed by the camera 14, and the information processing apparatus 10 analyzes a position of each marker. Further, a posture sensor (acceleration sensor and gyro sensor) is mounted on the HMD 200. The HMD 200 is connected to the information processing apparatus 10 by a known wireless communication protocol, and transmits the sensor data detected by the posture sensor to the information processing apparatus 10. The information processing apparatus 10 identifies a direction in which the HMD 200 faces on the basis of the photographed position of the light emission marker 210 and the sensor data of the posture sensor.